

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A malt fermented beverage ~~which is liquors partly made of malt and having sparkling characteristic, the beverage being prepared by using a distillate of an alcohol-containing material at least partly made of wheat/barley as a part of starting materials of the beverage comprising:~~

an alcohol-containing material partly made of wheat or barley and produced by fermentation, serving as a component A; and

an alcohol-containing distillate obtained by distilling an alcohol-containing material at least partly made of wheat or barley, serving as a component B,

wherein the malt fermented beverage is produced by mixing the component A and the component B, and wherein a ratio between an alcohol content from the alcohol-containing material of the component A and an alcohol content from the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is in a range of about 97.5:2.5 to about 90:10.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended): A malt fermented beverage comprising:
an alcohol-containing material partly made of ~~wheat/barley~~ wheat or barley and produced by fermentation, serving as a component A; and

an alcohol-containing distillate obtained by distilling an alcohol-containing material at least partly made of ~~wheat/barley~~ wheat or barley, serving as a component B,

wherein the malt fermented beverage is produced by mixing the component A and the component B in a volume ratio of 99.9:0.1 to about 90:10.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein at least malt is used as a starting material for the alcohol-containing material of the component A.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is made of at least malt, hop and water, and other starting materials as is necessary.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 4, wherein the other starting materials are selected from the group consisting of rice, corn, sorghum, white potato, starch, sugars, ~~wheat/barley~~ wheat or barley other than malt, a bittering agent, and a coloring agent.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is beer or a low-malt beer beverage.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is an alcohol-containing material having malt proportion of 20% or higher.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is an alcohol-containing material having malt proportion of 40% or higher.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is shochu (Japanese distilled liquor), whisky, vodka, or spirits, ~~or raw material alcohol~~.

Claim 10. (Canceled).

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is “mugi shochu” (shochu distilled from ~~wheat/barley~~ wheat or barley).

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is one that is distilled in a batch distiller.

Claim 13. (Original): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 11, wherein the mugi shochu is otsu-rui shochu.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 13, wherein the mugi shochu is mugi shochu that is obtained from starting materials including ~~wheat/barley~~ wheat or barley, malted ~~wheat/barley~~ wheat or malted barley, and water.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is one that is distilled in a continuous distiller.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is wheat spirits.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is an alcohol-containing material having malt proportion of 100%, and the distillate of alcohol-containing material of the component B is otsu-rui mugi shochu.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcohol-containing material of the component A is an alcohol-containing material having malt proportion of 40 to 60%, and the distillate of alcohol-containing material of the component B is wheat spirits.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein an alcohol content of the alcohol-containing distillate of the component B is from 25 to 45%.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended): The malt fermented beverage according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein an alcohol content of the malt fermented beverage is from 1 to 15%.

Claims 21-23. (Canceled).